

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /055 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7050

INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 03939

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, GW, PL

SUBJECT: DECISION CLOSE AT HAND ON POLISH AGREEMENTS

BEGIN SUMMARY: CDU/CSU POLITICIANS ARE NON-COMMITAL IN THE WAKE OF THE MARCH 9 STATEMENT BY POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER OLSZOWSKI ABOUT THE FRG-POLISH AGREEMENTS. THE CDU/CSU LEADERSHIP IS SCHEDULED TO MEET THE MORNING OF MARCH 10 TO MAKE A DECISION ON HOW THE UNION PARTIES WILL VOTE ON THE PENSION AGREEMENT IN THE BUNDESRAT ON MARCH 12. OLSZOWSKI'S STATEMENT SHOULD SATISFY THOSE CDU/CSU POLITICIANS WHO WANT (FOR VARIOUS REASONS) TO SEE THE PENSION AGREEMENT PASSED. THEY CAN NOW CLAIM THE UNION PARTIES HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING ASSURANCE FROM THE POLES THAT GERMAN-POLES BEYOND THE 125,000 WILL BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE POLAND. HOWEVER THE HARD CORE
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OPPOSITION CRITICS ARE UNLIKELY TO BE SATISFIED.

A RECENT PUBLIC OPINION POLL INDICATED THAT A PLURALITY SUPPORTS PASSAGE OF THE AGREEMENT, BUT POLITICIANS AS WELL AS THE MAN IN THE STREET ARE UNCLEAR AS TO WHAT THE POLITICAL FALLOUT OF A BUNDESRAT VETO WOULD BE FOR THE OCTOBER BUNDESTAG ELECTION. IF THERE IS NOT UNANIMITY AT THE MARCH 10 MEETING THE FATE OF THE AGREEMENTS WILL REST WITH ROEDER AND ALBRECHT. SAARLAND MINISTER PRESIDENT ROEDER APPEARS READY TO VOTE FOR THE PENSION AGREEMENT. ALBRECHT TOO SEEMS TO BE TILTING TOWARDS A YES VOTE BUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF HE WOULD BE WILLING TO VOTE IN OPPOSITION TO THE OTHER CDU/CSU LAENDER. END SUMMARY.

1. PUBLIC REACTIONS BY KEY CDU/CSU POLITICIANS TO THE MARCH 9 STATEMENT OF POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER OLSZOWSKI HAVE BEEN NON-COMMITTAL.. MAJOR CDU LEADERS, INCLUDING MINISTER PRESIDENTS ROEDER AND ALBRECHT, ARE SCHEDULED TO MEET IN BONN IN THE MORNING OF MARCH 10 TO DECIDE HOW THE CDU/CSU LAENDER WILL VOTE IN THE BUNDESRAT ON THE POLISH PENSION AGREEMENT MARCH 12. THE VOTE OF THE BUNDESRAT FOREIGN POLICY COMMITTEE, THE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 10, SHOULD PROVIDE AN INDICATION OF HOW THE RESPECTIVE BUNDESLAENDER WILL VOTE ON FRIDAY. AIDES TO CDU CHAIRMAN KOHL AND CDU SECRETARY GENERAL BIEDENKOPF ARE MILDLY OPTIMISTIC THAT THE POLISH GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT WILL PERMIT ENOUGH OF THE CDU LAENDER TO VOTE FOR THE AGREEMENT IN THE BUNDESRAT THAT IT WILL PASS.

2. THE MARCH 9 STATEMENT BY POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER OLSZOWSKI INCLUDED TWO POINTS OF MAJOR CONCERN TO THE OPPOSITION IN THE FRG. THE FIRST IS THAT THE POLISH GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS ALL PARTS OF THE AGREEMENTS TO BE LEGALLY BINDING. THE SECOND AND EVEN MORE IMPORTANT POINT IS THE QUESTION OF EMIGRATION OF GERMAN-POLES BEYOND THE 125,000 FIGURE. THE LANGUAGE OF OLSZOWSKI'S STATEMENT IS AMBIGUOUS BUT MORE FORTHCOMING THAN ANY PREVIOUS POLISH GOVERNMENT STATEMENT. ACCORDING TO DPA, HE SAID: "NO TIME LIMIT IS ENVISAGED FOR THE FILING AND CONSIDERATION, IN THE SHORTEST TIME POSSIBLE, OF APPLICATIONS BY PEOPLE WHO COMPLY WITH THE CONFIDENTIAL

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CRITERIA" (OF THE 1970 "INFORMATION").

3. IT IS NOT CERTAIN AT THIS TIME WHETHER THE POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S MARCH 9 STATEMENT WILL SATISFY THE HARD CORE CRITICS OF THE AGREEMENTS WITHIN THE CDU/CSU, SUCH AS STRAUSS, DREGGER AND CARSTENS. IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT THE MARCH 9 STATEMENT WILL PROVIDE SAARLAND MINISTER PRESIDENT ROEDER JUSTIFICATION TO VOTE FOR THE

AGREEMENT. LOWER SAXONY MINISTER PRESIDENT
ALBRECHT MAY WELL TURN OUT TO BE THE KEY TO PASSAGE OF
THE AGREEMENT ON MARCH 12. ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT HE
WANTS TO VOTE FOR THE AGREEMENT BUT IT REMAINS UNCLEAR
AS TO WHETHER HE WOULD VOTE IN OPPOSITION TO THE
MAJORITY OF THE CDU/CSU LAENDER.

4. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND VERY MUCH ENTHUSIASM WITHIN

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THE UNION PARTIES FOR THE POLISH AGREEMENTS. EVEN THOSE
CDU BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES WHO VOTED FOR THE AGREEMENTS IN
THE BUNDESTAG DID SO FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS WHILE
REMAINING CRITICAL OF THE CONTENT OF THE AGREEMENTS.

THERE IS, HOWEVER, GROWING UNEASINESS WITHIN THE CDU AS TO WHAT A CDU/CSU VETO OF THE POLISH PENSION AGREEMENT IN THE BUNDESRAT MIGHT MEAN IN THE 1976 BUNDESTAG ELECTION. AN ALLENSBACH POLL PUBLISHED MARCH 4 IN "STERN" INDICATED THAT FORTY SIX PERCENT BELIEVED THE BUNDESRAT SHOULD APPROVE THE AGREEMENT, THIRTY TWO PERCENT BELIEVED THE BUNDESRAT SHOULD VETO THE AGREEMENT AND TWENTY TWO PERCENT WERE UNDECIDED. WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE 125,000 GERMAN-POLES SHOULD COME TO THE FRG DESPITE THE ECONOMIC SLUMP, FORTY EIGHT PERCENT SAID THEY

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SHOULD COME. THIRTY FOUR PERCENT SAID THEY SHOULD REMAIN IN POLAND AND EIGHTEEN PERCENT WERE UNDECIDED. THE PUBLIC IS JUST AS UNCLEAR ABOUT THE POSSIBLE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF A CDU/CSU VETO AS THE POLITICIANS ARE. FORTY-SEVEN PERCENT DID NOT KNOW WHETHER A VETO WOULD HELP OR HURT THE CDU/CSU, THIRTY-FIVE PERCENT BELIEVED THE CDU/CSU WOULD LOSE VOTES AND SEVENTEEN PERCENT BELIEVED THE CDU/CSU WOULD GAIN VOTES IN CASE THEY VETOED THE AGREEMENT.

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